

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2006

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 CAT in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English. This broadcast can also be heard on Echolink by connecting to ZS6FCS or to www.zs6mrk.org and following the indicated links. This, and previous bulletins, can be downloaded from the web site of the SARL i.e. www.sarl.org.za. You can read or download previous bulletins from there and subscribe to receive future bulletins by email.

This transmission is by Hans, ZS6KR, on 145,725 and 7,066 MHz from Pretoria with a relay on 3 695 kHz. (Other newsreaders please change to suit).

In the news today:

SARL WEB SERVER CRASHED

SUITSAT-1 (AO-54), RE-ENTERS EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE

DIVISION 6 BAND PLANNING MEETING

You are listening to ZS6SRL. Stay tuned for more detail on these and other important and interesting news items.

NEXT INTECNET TO EXPLORE THE QUESTION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WEATHER AND PROPAGATION

The next INTECNET on 1 October will explore the question whether there is a relationship between the solar cycle and weather patterns. Jacques van Delft who was a popular speaker at the Gauteng RTA in 2005 will discuss his findings. He is very involved in research in this area and will share some of the latest data, which shows that the new solar cycle may in fact have started.

The INTECNET is on the air at 20:00 local time. Links to the conference bridge are available on request. Send an Email to armi@sarl.org.za to link your local repeater. As is customary the President's Net will precede the Intecnet, starting at 19:00 CAT.

SARL WEB SERVER CRASHED

The server hosting the SARL web crashed on Thursday and although it is back on, some of the facilities are not yet operational and will have to be reloaded. Many of the recently updated information pages are also not accessible. At the time of editing SARL News, no further information was available. The SARL apologises for any inconvenience the problem may be causing.

DIVISION 6 BAND PLANNING COMMITTEE TO MEET ON SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER.

The next meeting of the Division 6 Band Planning Committee will be held at the NARC from 09:00 - 12:00 on Saturday 16th September. All clubs in the region are invited to attend. This meeting will take the form of a workshop to process information on current voice repeaters in the region.

An e-mail mailing list of interested amateurs is being constructed. If you would like to be placed on the mailing list please forward your details to Peter Hers at zs6phd@mweb.co.za.

SUITSAT-1 (AO-54), RE-ENTERS EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE

SuitSat-1 (AO-54) is history. The surplus Russian Orlan space suit turned satellite re-entered and burned up in Earth's atmosphere on Thursday 7 September at 16:00 UTC some 1 400 km south-southwest of Western Australia. The announcement came September 8 from Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO.

SuitSat-1 became one of the greatest public relations vehicles for Amateur Radio in years. Bauer expressed thanks "to all who made SuitSat-1 the phenomenal event that it was." Launched on 3 February during a spacewalk from the ISS, SuitSat-1 was heard around the world, although at a much weaker signal strength than anticipated.

After SuitSat-1's VHF ham radio payload stopped transmitting earlier this year, AMSAT initiated a "Chicken Little Contest," for participants to guess when SuitSat-1 would de-orbit. Winners and more information are on the AMSAT Web site www.amsat.org/amsat-new/ariss/suitsatContest.php.

Bauer said plans for a potential SuitSat-2 will be a discussion topic at the AMSAT/ARISS joint meeting in October.

CONTEST NEWS

QRP SPRINT

This afternoon, Sunday 10 September, the Spring 40 metre QRP Sprint will be run, it is a CW and phone contest and starts at 14:00 CAT and ends at 16:00 CAT. The rules are available in the 2006 Contest Manual and were published in HF Happenings 214 and 215.

SARL VHF/UHF CONTEST

The second leg of the SARL VHF/UHF Contest will be run next weekend. The first session starts at 18:00 CAT on Friday 15 September and ends at 18:00 CAT on Saturday 16 September. The second session starts at 18:01 CAT and ends at 12:00 CAT on Sunday 17 September.

Activity will take place on 6 m, 4 m, 2 m, 70 cm, 23 cm and higher amateur allocations using FM, SSB, CW and digital modes. Participation can be as a fixed, portable, field station or limited category station.

The complete rules are in the 2006 Contest Manual and must be read before the contest. Contest information was also published in HF Happenings 215.

NEW CONSTRUCTION COMPETITION ANNOUNCED FOR A 70 cm RECEIVER CONVERTER

The South African Amateur Radio Development Trust has announced the launch of a new construction competition for 2006. The competition is for the design and construction of a 70 cm receive converter in support of South Africa's second satellite to be launched in December 2006. The satellite named Sumbandile, includes an amateur radio FM transponder with an uplink on 2 metres and a downlink on 70 cm.

The first part of the competition is the design of a receive converter with an IF of 144/145 MHz and the second part is the construction of a complete converter, boxed and ready for operation.

Entries for the first leg of the competition will close 01 November and participants are required to submit in electronic format the circuit diagram, a component list and supplier resource list as well as a brief write-up. Three winners will be selected who will each receive an ARRL Satellite Handbook and R500 towards the cost of constructing the final unit.

The second leg of the competition, a completed operating converter closes on 31 December. The three entries will be judged on operating performance, quality of construction and completeness of documentation. The winner will receive an ICOM VC82 hand-held transceiver plus a certificate and a 2007 ARRL Handbook. The two runner-ups will receive a certificate and a 2007 ARRL Handbook. The competition is open to all radio amateurs and electronic enthusiasts on the African continent.

More details can be found on the web at www.amateurradio.org.za.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels. The geomagnetic field is expected to range from quiet to unsettled levels on 18 and 23 September. The expected Effective Sun Spot number for the coming week will be less than 20.

20 m and 40 m will provide best opportunities for DX. There is a possibility of 20 m openings towards the East from about 06:00 CAT and 40 m from 20:00 till 23:00. From about 15:00, 15 and 20 m may open towards Europe and 40 m from 22:00. Conditions are going to be very challenging towards the USA.

For the CW and digital enthusiasts, it may also be worth monitoring 10 MHz during hours of darkness.

Please visit www.spaceweather.co.za for further information.

CLUB NEWS

At the AGM of the Bloemfontein Radio Amateur Club held on Saturday 02 September 2006 the following members were elected to serve on the club committee:

Chairman and Treasurer: Victor Reitz, ZS4VR; Vice Chairman: Martin Schwellia, ZS4MS; Secretary and Webmaster: Dennis Green, ZS4BS

The Bloemfontein RAC Radio Amateur of the Year Award was bestowed on Jan Botha, ZS4JAN.

MIDLANDS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB BOOT SALE

The Midlands Amateur Radio Club will be holding a boot sale at its Club House at the Carbineers Drill Hall on Saturday 16th September starting at 11:00. This sale will take the place of the normal monthly meeting. The sale will not be restricted to items of Amateur Radio - anything goes.

Refreshments ie wors rolls etc., will be on sale.

All are invited especially Hiway, Durban and South Coast Clubs. Come join them for an eyeball QSO. Any enquiries to OM Bert, ZS5MQ, at 033-344-3659.

DIARY OF EVENTS

10 September - Spring QRP Sprint; 11 September - Closing date for logs for the SARL HF CW Contest; 14 September - Closing date for entries for the October RAE; 15 - 17 September - SARL VHF/UHF Contest; 16 September - Division 6 Band Planning Committee meeting at the NARC; 16 September - Midlands Amateur Radio Club Boot Sale; 7 October - East Rand Flea market; 19 October - End of year RAE.

SARL News depends on clubs and individuals for news items of importance and interest to radio amateurs. The one and only way to ensure that your contribution will reach the SARL News team, is to place it in www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It will be appreciated if you will do it in both Afrikaans and English.

The SARL also invites all listeners to listen to the program Amateur Radio Mirror International this Sunday morning at 10:00 CAT on 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area with relays on 7 082, 7 205 and 17 695 kHz. Audio is also streamed on www.zs6mrk.org and on Echolink from ZS6FCS as for this bulletin. A repeat transmission takes place on Mondays at 21:00 on 3 215 kHz. Telkom and Sentech sponsor the ARMI transmissions on the non-amateur frequencies.

You have been listening to a news bulletin by the South African Radio League, which was compiled by Dennis, ZS4BS.

A prosperous week to all, 73.

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